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3 **Merrimack School Board Meeting**
4 **Merrimack Town Hall Meeting Room**
5 **May 19, 2014**
6 **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

7 **PRESENT:** Chairman Ortega, Vice Chair Barnes, Board Members Powell, Guagliumi and
8 Schneider, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Business
9 Administrator Shevenell and Student Representative Crowley.

10
11 **1. Call To Order**

12
13 Chairman Ortega called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
14 Chairman Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

15
16 **2. Approval of the May 5, 2014 Minutes**

17
18 Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Vice Chair Barnes) to approve the minutes of the
19 May 5, 2014 meeting.

20
21 Board Member Powell requested the following changes to the minutes:

- 22 • Page 6 of 14, line 253, sentence should read, "...twenty-two families have requested
23 information on scholarships".
- 24 • Throughout the document, for consistency, have the amounts of money spelled out and add
25 the figures i.e. one hundred forty-four dollars (\$144.00)
- 26 • Page 7 of 14, line 286, should be one-third to one-half
- 27 • Page 7 of 14, line 301, the sentence should read, "... Josh Schupak, a pre-school teacher from
28 the YCMA and it might also include two para educators from Reeds Ferry Elementary
29 School who also work at Camp Sargent in the summer.
- 30 • Page 8 of 14, line 352, change "around" to "during".
- 31 • Page 9 of 14, line 374, should read, "re-negotiate the amount of the estimated cost."
- 32 • Page 9 of 14, line 400, add the word "refund" after Local Government Center.

33
34 Vice Chair Barnes requested the following changes to the minutes:

- 35 • Page 2 of 14, line 72, should read "standards-based curriculum".
- 36 • Page 8 of 14, line 332, should be "...if they are reaching out to the sub-committee of the
37 Merrimack Middle School or if..."
- 38 • Page 11 of 14, line 457, after the sentence that ends in "in the future", add the following
39 statement: "We are assured that this is the same work that will cost at least one hundred
40 thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) more in the future as our lowest bidding contractor took a
41 seventy-five thousand dollar (\$75,000.00) hit on this add-on bid to get the total project."

42
43 Board Member Schneider requested the following changes to the minutes:

- 44 • Page 7 of 14, line 292, change to read, "Board Member Schneider asked about the blend of
45 our school staff with the camp staff."
- 46 • Page 7 of 14, line 294, change replace "camp staff" with "school staff"

- 47 • Page 8 of 14, line 319, add the words “and needs” after “medical issues.”
- 48 • Page 9 of 14, line 393, after “Medicare”, add “increases in revenue.”
- 49 • Page 13 of 14, line 581, under Comments, change to “Board Member Schneider stated that
- 50 there was an additional query about students being able to take their final exams at another
- 51 time since they will be attending the National History Day Final Competition during finals
- 52 week.”

53

54 Chairman Ortega requested the following changes to the minutes:

- 55 • Page 2 of 14, line 75, remove the “a” before Nick Hardy’s name
- 56 • Page 3 of 14, line 123, remove the “a” before “case management”
- 57 • Page 4 of 14, line 166, should be Ms. Foss.
- 58 • Page 6 of 14, line 233, Joe Manzoli’s title is Chief Operating Officer
- 59 • Page 7 of 14, line 273, replace “what hopes to be the experience at Camp Sargent”, with “the
- 60 expectations for the experience at Camp Sargent”
- 61 • Page 8 of 14, line 347, should read, “Chairman Ortega stated that students have historically
- 62 enjoyed the overnight experience of MiTeNa and that a day program for students at Camp
- 63 Sargent, with evening activity, attempts to replicate that without having students stay
- 64 overnight.”
- 65 • Page 10 of 14, line 434-435, should read, “Even if the three hundred eighty-five thousand
- 66 dollars (\$385,000) is not spent, there will still be a shortage in the revenue.”
- 67 • Page 11 of 14, line 492, should read, “He added that the taxpayers expect their money from
- 68 the HealthTrust back and did not want to spend it on the roof, since they spoke out in the
- 69 negative when the board was looking to set up a Health Care Reserve Fund.”

70

71 The motion to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting as amended passed 5-0-0.

72

73 **3. Public Participation**

74

75 There was no public participation

76

77 **4. Consent Agenda**

78

79 Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the following items for approval:

80 a) Teacher Nominations

- 81 - Nicole Funicella, Grade 4 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- 82 - Cristy Jenkins, Grade 1 Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

83 b) Teacher Resignations

- 84 - Joan Condon, Grade 2 Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
- 85 - Eric Fairweather, Grade 6 Teacher, Mastricola Upper Elementary School
- 86 - Laura Jaynes, Grade 4 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- 87 - Laura Ohl, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- 88 - Dennis Pymm, Educator of Gifted and Talented
- 89 - Christopher Saunders, Music Teacher, Mastricola Elementary School
- 90 - Janice Torrice, Grade 4 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- 91 - Vera Vigneault, Grade 1 Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

92

93 Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to accept the Consent
94 Agenda as presented.

95
96 The motion passed 5-0-0.

97 **5. Merrimack High School – A Year in Review**

98
99
100 Principal Ken Johnson, Vice Principals Rich Zampieri, and Peter Bergeron, Bill Maniotis, and
101 students Hannah Vaccaro and Allison Yelgin came to the table to represent Merrimack High
102 School.

103
104 Principal Johnson made a PowerPoint Presentation on the Year in Review for the high school.
105 Highlights include:

- 106
107 • Principal Johnson stated that the materials discussed tonight can be found on the high school
108 website.
- 109 • Everything they do is in the context of their Mission Statement. The school motto, “Believe,
110 Go Forward and Inspire”, is incorporated into the mission statement.
- 111 • He highlighted some successful NECAP results including increases in reading, writing and
112 math, as compared to the 2012 results.
- 113 • They have been successful in dramatically reducing the drop-out rate to about .1%
114 and the hope is to get it down to zero.
- 115 • They received a national award for their Advanced Placement (AP) scores. The number of
116 students taking AP classes has increased as have the students that received grade 3 or higher
117 on exams. Mr. Johnson stated that this is the third year in a row Merrimack Has won the
118 award.
- 119 • In the New Hampshire Scholars Program, ninety-three seniors were awarded the NH Scholar
120 Distinction Award. Merrimack is the first large class school to join the NH Scholars
121 Program.
- 122 • The competency based grading program was formally implemented this year. They will
123 review, revise and amend the policies during the summer.
- 124 • The hybrid grading system is the unique grading system that was put in place and was
125 successful.

126
127 Principal Johnson highlighted several of the programs and departments at the high school.

128
129 Bill Maniotis, English Teacher, spoke about how competencies have changed his approach to
130 teaching. There were three major changes that he tried to make in his teaching approach:

- 131 ○ Teaching for “mastery rather than “just passing”
- 132 ○ Using formative assessments to check for understanding in order to gauge student
133 progress.
- 134 ○ Motivating students to take more ownership of their own improvement.

135
136 Mr. Maniotis focused on lessons that maximize student learning. He added that he struggles with
137 finding a more systematic way to remediate students who continue to struggle.

138

139 Hannah Vaccaro, a senior, spoke about competency based learning. She stated that the students
140 focused on how to understand, learn and retain the bigger concepts. She suggested that teachers
141 allow for more collaboration and to express and address learning struggles among students.

142

143 Allison Yelgin, a senior, spoke about her experience in AP English. All students learned
144 differently. Students discussed their totally different approaches to the subject, the text or an
145 idea.

146

147 • Science Department

148 - Science Olympiad

149 - Mr. Johnson reported that this is the sixth straight year that the team won the State
150 tournament and they have only participated for six years.

151 - Bio-Diesel team students presented their prosthetic arm project at the National Science
152 Teachers Conference in Boston. They were the only high school representatives at that
153 conference.

154 • Business Department

155 - Accounting III dual enrollment was offered for the first time this year with eleven students
156 successfully taking the course and receiving Southern New Hampshire University
157 (SNHU) credits.

158 - DECA is a very successful program, which provided scholarship funds to Merrimack High
159 School in the amount of ninety-two thousand dollars (\$92,000.00).

160 • English Department

161 - The department is piloting a new piece of software, Turnitin. This is a comprehensive
162 cloud-based program that helps students become better writers by facilitating personalized
163 feedback to identify errors in spelling, grammar, mechanics, usage, style and plagiarism.

164 - Mr. Maniotis added that using the new software has been very successful. It allows
165 students to prepare multiple drafts. The teachers can make quick comments and then the
166 students make changes to their compositions.

167 - Split Ink Literary Magazine

168 - The Hawk School Newspaper

169 • The Art Department

170 - The Glass Club has been awarded a one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) grant by the
171 Merrimack Lions Club

172 - Empty Bowls proceeds benefit groups in need.

173 - National Art Honor Society

174 • Physical Education Department

175 - For PE2, all students are receiving training in First Aid/CPR/AED.

176 - All Physical Education teachers are now certified instructors in First Aid/CPR/AED.

177 • Technology Integration

178 - Wi-Fi technology is in most areas of the school

179 - Technology Education

180 • Math Department

181 - The department ran a Smarter Balanced Assessment pilot. It involved forty-nine student
182 volunteers. Some found it very challenging and some found it easy and we now have some
183 experience with it and so do our math students.

- 184 • Things that develop the physical and emotional well-being of the students, as part of the
- 185 Mission Statement
- 186 - Challenge Day
- 187 - Athletics: Several boys, girls and teams made All-State Teams
- 188 • Things that develop social stewardship at the high school
- 189 - Student Council
- 190 - Get Set-Soup Group
- 191 - Social and Civic activities
- 192 - Wigs for Kids
- 193 - Road Races
- 194 - Theatre
- 195 • Partnership with the Merrimack Police Department
- 196 - Mock DWI organized by the Merrimack Police Department
- 197 - School Resource Officer Detective Mike Murray
- 198 • World Language Highlights
- 199 - Spanish Student Exchange Program
- 200 - Trip to China
- 201 - Trip to England
- 202 • Music
- 203 - Principal Johnson Stated that Music Director, Ms. Cunningham, won a State award.
- 204 - Concert Band
- 205 - Chorus
- 206 - Marching Band
- 207 - Chamber Choir
- 208 - Jazz Band
- 209 • Guidance News
- 210 - Freshman Adventure
- 211 - Naviance Family Connection-planning for careers
- 212 - College Fair
- 213 • Things Up and Coming
- 214 - Senior Service Day, May 20
- 215 - Six Flags, June 10
- 216 - Senior Semi Formal, June 11
- 217 - Senior Barbeque, June 12
- 218 - Commencement, June 14
- 219 • The senior class theme is “1 for the Books”

220
221 Vice Chair Barnes asked about “grade vs. mastery”

222
223 Ms. Vaccaro responded that understanding is more important than memorizing. She added that
224 the competencies set the standards that have to be met and give the students the opportunity
225 throughout the unit to improve through understanding.

226
227 Vice Chair Barnes asked if there have been adjustments made in the competency based grading
228 system and if more adjustments are planned for next year based on what they have learned this
229 year.

230
231 Principal Johnson responded that when the teachers get together, especially on collaboration
232 days, they talk about tweaking the rubrics.

233
234 Vice Chair Barnes asked if different teachers have different expectations as to how to implement
235 competency based grading.

236
237 Principal Johnson responded that the teachers have different means and different methodologies
238 to attain the same goals. They have the same expectations because the rubrics are fixed.

239
240 Vice Chair Barnes asked if there would be more AP courses offered in the future.

241
242 Principal Johnson replied with the list of AP courses offered this year. They were AP Biology,
243 Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, Psychology,
244 Spanish, Statistics and U.S. History. They also offered AP Computer Sciences, Macro-
245 economics, Micro-economics, and US Government and Policies, which were the courses offered
246 in the “virtual high school”. They are hoping to add more courses.

247
248 Chairman Ortega thanked everyone for a wonderful presentation.

249
250 Principal Johnson noted that Student Representative Crowley is doing a wonderful job in
251 representing the high school on the board. He thanked her for her work.

252
253 **6. Request for an Additional Half-Time Latin Teacher and an Extension of**
254 **Contract (.5 to .8) for the Mandarin Teacher at Merrimack High School**

255
256 World Language Chair, Angela Maslanka, and Assistant Principal Rich Zampieri explained the
257 reasons for these requests.

258
259 Vice Principal Zampieri explained these requests are based on student needs and student
260 enrollment. The addition of a half-time teacher in Latin will allow the World Language
261 Department to meet the requests of all students seeking Latin courses.

262
263 The request to extend the contract of the Mandarin teacher, Lei Xue, enhances the partnership
264 with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) to provide a greater opportunity for students
265 in the future. Ms. Xue has initiated a cultural partnership with the Confucius Institute at the
266 University of New Hampshire (UNH) and is now developing an academic curricular partnership
267 with SNHU that also contains a cultural component which would allow students to receive
268 college credit for Mandarin 4.

269
270 As part of this pending agreement, SNHU requests that the Mandarin 4 class be separate and
271 distinct from other Mandarin courses. This initiative is consistent with other initiatives offered at
272 the high school such as Running Start and the Academy of Finance at Rivier University.

273
274 The cost of the enrollment for the course is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) which would allow the
275 students three credits from SNHU. These credits are portable and can be transferred to any other

276 university that accepts SNHU credit. This compares to the cost of a regular three credit course at
277 SNHU which is one thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,700.00).

278
279 Vice Chair Barnes asked if there has been active discussion about Spanish, Latin and French
280 courses with SNHU for college credit or are they waiting to see what happens with the Mandarin
281 class.

282
283 Vice Principal Zampieri responded that they have not explored any other possibilities. They are
284 waiting to see how the Mandarin course works with SNHU.

285
286 Chairman Ortega noted the memo from Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin which requested a
287 waiver of the two week rule in order to validate and finalize teacher schedules prior to the close
288 of this academic year.

289
290 Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) that the board authorize
291 a total of sixty-two thousand six hundred and fifty-seven dollars (\$62,657.00) to be distributed to
292 a half-time Latin teacher in the amount of twenty-six thousand, five hundred thirty-four dollars.
293 (\$26,534.00) and a contract extension for the Mandarin teacher in the amount of thirty-six
294 thousand one hundred twenty-three dollars (\$36,123.00) and to waive the two week rule.

295
296 Board Member Powell spoke to his motion. He stated that that he is extremely impressed that
297 Lei Xue implemented this proposal on her own. He added that in the future he hopes that the
298 World Language department takes advantage of dual enrollment in other languages. He thinks
299 this is a great investment in Merrimack's future.

300
301 Board Member Guagliumi stated that this is a wonderful opportunity to provide the students and
302 their families with a more "out of the box" experience while receiving college credits and saving
303 tuition costs.

304
305 Board Member Schneider stated that the district is investing money and the payback is good. He
306 added that it makes good sense to tie into the Universities. He would like to see this done for the
307 other languages offered at the high school.

308
309 Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin clarified that SNHU, Rivier and the University of New
310 Hampshire (UNH) all have requirements. One of the chief requirements is the credential of the
311 instructors. In this case, Lei Xue has the proper credential that would allow the universities to
312 view her as an adjunct professor. He added that the district has to make sure we meet that
313 requirement for any teacher in any class that would make dual enrollment possible.

314
315 Chairman Ortega stated that he supports the motion on the potential but not the fiscal savings.
316 The district is making an investment. Having a program like this, offering this opportunity, helps
317 to further reinforce the programs we have in place.

318
319 Student Representative Crowley stated that, from a student's perspective, it is very good that
320 classes can be taken at a high school level and receive credit at a college level. She added that in

321 choosing her classes for next year she was choosing between AP classes and the Running Start
322 program which would also give her college credits in English.

323
324 The motion passed 5-0-0.

325
326 **7. Ongoing Collaboration Efforts Between the Merrimack Police Department and the**
327 **School District**

328
329 Chief Doyle gave an update on the ongoing collaboration efforts with regard to Emergency
330 Management planning that the district and the police department have undertaken over the last
331 three years. This is been the department's vision to address the response to the recovery from an
332 incident involving an active shooter at one of the schools. He explained that many of his senior
333 staff have attended conferences focused on strategies in response to school shootings. These are
334 run by the FBI, US Secret Service, US Attorney's Office and the Department of Homeland
335 Security. There have been many meetings with the district Emergency Management Consultant,
336 Les Carter. The department has met with each school's leadership teams, conducted drills,
337 presentations and demonstrations on how Merrimack would respond to an active shooter. They
338 conduct daily visits to the schools that do not have a resource officer. They provide radios with
339 emergency panic buttons to all of the school district offices including the Superintendent's office
340 and train the staff on how to use these phones.

341
342 The Office of Emergency Management Planning Grant includes funds for policy development
343 that would take about a three to five workshop session, which would be conducted in June. A
344 senior scheduling session would be tentatively held in August, a table top exercise would take
345 place in October and a fully functional exercise would take place in the spring of 2015. The grant
346 will also cover expenses from forty to fifty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00) to cover
347 expenses for food and supplies and rental space to hold an exercise and a debriefing following
348 the exercise.

349
350 The fully functional exercise is the stepping stone to something bigger. This will show what
351 needs to be done in terms of preparedness. It will involve all the local law enforcement partners
352 in the state and in the immediate area, emergency medical services, the Merrimack fire
353 department and the school district. There has been a huge level of commitment from the
354 Superintendent's office and the leadership teams in the schools. The venue for this exercise still
355 has to be identified, but will most likely will be in a post-secondary or secondary school location
356 in town.

357
358 This is an ongoing process that would start now and continue to work towards constant
359 improvement. The roles that the individuals play will not change, even though the people may
360 change. He added that there is nothing more important in this community than the need to
361 address whether our children, the faculty, the police and the people who use the facilities are safe
362 and in a comforting environment.

363
364 Chairman Ortega explained that seeking the grant has been approved by the Town Council and
365 therefore the board does not have to take any action.

366

367 Chairman Ortega stated that the board values the vibrant and collaborative proactive
368 relationships that the school district shares with the police department.

369
370 Chief Doyle spoke about the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Facilities Usage (i.e.
371 Merrimack Middle School). Highlights of his presentation included:

- 372 • This memo will establish an understanding between the towns using the Merrimack Middle
373 School for a Point of Dispensation (POD).
- 374 • Whenever there is a public health declaration by the governor or the Commissioner of
375 Public Safety relative to a public health issue there may be a call to activate that POD site.
- 376 • In this particular region, the Nashua Public Health Region, there are thirteen POD sites,
377 including the Merrimack Middle School.
- 378 • Over the last five or six years the police department has conducted two vaccination clinics
379 at the middle school just to see how the flow through the POD design will work.
- 380 • The Nashua Public Health Service provides a POD trailer which provides all the supplies
381 and equipment that are needed. The medication distribution would be done by the Public
382 Health professionals assigned to the POD.
- 383 • A comprehensive plan is needed in the event the POD is needed. That is the reason for the
384 Memo of Understanding relative to the use of the facility.
- 385 • Chief Doyle added that he is the POD Director for the town.

386
387 Board Member Powell asked if an inventory of supplies to be provided by the district has been
388 done.

389
390 Chief Doyle responded that a lot of the supplies listed in the memo will be brought by the POD
391 trailer, such as cots and wheelchairs for the mobility impaired who may have to spend extended
392 time at the site. The department is looking for office space where they can conduct the
393 administrative functions.

394
395 Board Member Powell explained that he just wanted to make sure the district has the needed
396 equipment or if any expenditures will be needed to meet the requirements.

397
398 Board Member Schneider asked that in the event the middle school needs to be used for an
399 extended time, how would the district handle the other schools in the district that are not affected
400 by the use of the POD.

401
402 Superintendent Chiafery responded that the first attempt would be to move the population of the
403 Middle School to another site. Because the middle school is in teams, it would be very easy to
404 move the seventh grade to one site and the eighth grade to another site.

405
406 Board Member Schneider asked if there is a plan in place to move the students out of the middle
407 school.

408
409 Superintendent Chiafery responded that there is not a formal plan in place. She added that they
410 would be prepared to turn to the high school and the upper elementary school to house a
411 particular team.

412

413 Chairman Ortega stated that the agreement has been reviewed by Attorney Peahl, the district's
414 legal counsel and Attorney Roman, the town's legal counsel. He added that the board will take it
415 under advisement and put it on the Consent Agenda for the June 2, 2014 meeting, giving
416 Superintendent Chiafery the authority to sign the agreement.

417

418 **8. Reconsideration of School Calendar for 2014-2015 Based on Polling Site Need**

419

420 Chairman Ortega received a request from the Town Moderator, Lynn Christensen, regarding the
421 November election. She was checking to make sure the high school would be available for this
422 election. The anticipated number of voters should be around nine thousand (9,000).

423

424 In looking at the school calendar, Chairman Ortega realized it would be difficult to use the high
425 school for the November election since school has been scheduled on that day. Holding the
426 election there would require the district to close the school.

427

428 Chairman Ortega went back to the tape of the September 17, 2012 meeting to see what was
429 granted to Ms. Christensen. During those deliberations the board was considering a request from
430 the Moderator to hold all elections at the high school as the single polling place in town. A
431 motion to grant the use of Merrimack High School for the November elections only (mid-terms
432 and Presidential elections) was passed by the board. When the calendar was discussed for
433 2014-2015, the November election was never discussed. The calendar should therefore be
434 reconsidered in light of the high school being available as the November polling place. He asked
435 Superintendent Chiafery to take this under advisement and come back to the board with some
436 suggestions.

437

438 Vice Chair Barnes asked if Ms. Christensen was asked if it would be possible to use James
439 Masticola Upper Elementary School (JMUES) for the mid-term November election if the
440 number of voters is estimated to be less than nine thousand.

441

442 Chairman Ortega replied that Ms. Christensen stated it would be extremely difficult to use
443 another location.

444

445 Board Member Powell asked Superintendent Chiafery if there is an alternative plan.

446

447 Superintendent Chiafery responded that she would like to revisit this at the June 2, 2014 board
448 meeting because she felt strongly that she needed to confer with three groups. The leadership
449 team took it under advisement last Wednesday. She spoke with the Merrimack Teachers'
450 Association and she still has to speak with the Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association.
451 Her intent is to come back to the board with two options at the June 2, 2014 meeting.

452

453 **9. Scheduling Summer Board Meeting Dates**

454

455 Superintendent Chiafery and Chairman Ortega spoke about having two board meetings during
456 the summer months, which is what has been done in the past. The two proposed dates are
457 July 14, 2014 and August 11, 2014. She added that it is important to have full representation
458 from the board. It was determined that all board members were available for those two dates.

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10. Other

a) Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

b) Comments

Vice Chair Barnes had spoken to Chairman Ortega about the school board assignments for next year. The question she had was the distribution of work and working down to the curriculum assignments. Historically the board has not been brought into curriculum development unless it was absolutely needed because meetings usually happen during a school day which for most board members is also a work day. Chairman Ortega spoke with administration about maybe changing the trend to make sure the board is involved in the process of curriculum development. Vice Chair Barnes stated that as long as that happens, there is better equity in the distribution of board assignments. If during the year board members are not finding the curriculum assignments coming to fruition, she will ask for a reconsideration of assignments. She asked the board members to be aware of their assignments to see if they are truly being utilized.

Chairman Ortega stated that he spoke with Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin regarding board involvement in curriculum development and balancing that with the challenge that the work in curriculum is very hands-on and time intensive. People dedicate at least one day a month during the school year. For any board member to set aside a full day would be difficult. He added that the role as a board member is extremely important as far as curriculum.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that some things have been tried in the past with varying degrees of success in terms of including board members in the process.

Chairman Ortega thought it would be reasonable if a board member could not attend full day working sessions over a period of multiple months, they could read summative progress reports, interim work products and provide feedback to the working curriculum committees so that their voices still could be heard. They would be made aware of progress being made in curriculum development.

Chairman Ortega clarified a comment that he had made at the last board meeting related to the roofing project. The statement he made about the process and the appearance of the process could have been misinterpreted to be associated with the board or individuals on the board. He used the term that they were giving an appearance of “bait and switch”, which was related to the fact that the board had made a decision that was held for the course of the year and now they were being asked to make a decision based upon the requirements of the contractor. This, he felt, gave the appearance of a “bait and switch”. In no way did he mean to imply that anyone on the board would do anything dishonest.

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11. New Business

Superintendent Chiafery asked if the board could begin the board meeting on June 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. because it will be a full agenda with Reeds Ferry School giving a presentation as well as having members from the Conservation Commission in attendance. The board agreed to begin the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Chiafery reiterated that the Logic Model will be revisited on May 28, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the music room at Merrimack Middle School. Reflective questions will be prepared by facilitator, Nancy Gerson, which will be sent to the board members in advance.

12. Committee Reports

Student Representative Crowley gave her report:

- The members of the Merrimack Science Olympiad went to the National Finals and ranked thirty-third in the nation.
- Mrs. Cunningham and Detective Murray received recognition at the State level for their accomplishments and involvement in the high school
- The Spanish exchange students left today, May 19th, after a one month stay in Merrimack
- Elections for Student Council and Class Office are coming up and forms and speeches were due May 19th.
- James Jolly's Eagle Scout Project has completed clearing space for the route his bridge is taking and he believes the entire project process will be completed in June for the building of the bridge.
- Senior Service Day is May 20th.
- The Washington D.C. trip for 8th graders is leaving May 20th.
- The Need to Feed Run is May 31st to support the people of Haiti
- Juniors took the Science NECAPS last week, which is the last time the NECAPS will be taken in Merrimack.

Board Member Schneider reported on the Merrimack Safeguard meeting on May 8th. They reviewed their logic model and action plan that was fed into the grant request that was submitted but has not yet heard about. The raw data was received from the student survey results that was done at the middle school. It will be reviewed. There is going to be a meeting on June 11th in the evening to do education, which is a requirement of the grant.

Board Member Schneider attended the SERESC (South Eastern Regional Education Service Center) spring meeting. There were eight Superintendents and eight school board members in attendance. The focus was on the Brentwood School which is owned by SERESC and is used for out of district placement for students with special needs and students with behavior issues at the high school level. The past year funding per student has dropped because more communities are doing in placement of students rather than out of placement of students. SERESC is going to close down the Brentwood School at the end of this school year. This effects Merrimack for out of district placement.

549 Superintendent Chiafery added that the Board of Directors of SERESC authorized the Director to
550 go forward and submit a planning grant to see about repurposing that school into a public charter
551 school. Merrimack would be able to partake of this public charter school. The Department of
552 Education is very interested in SERESC embracing the notion of a public charter school. The
553 SERESC board authorized the Director, Richard Lasalle, to go forward and submit an
554 application for a grant for planning to put forward a public charter school.

555

556 Board Member Powell attended the EPEC (Educator Performance Evaluation Committee)
557 meeting last week. They received questions from the high school educators and went through
558 them. Those responses will be put out in an e-mail to all the employees in the district.

559

560 Board Member Powell attended the Healthcare Cost Committee meeting. Two one thousand
561 dollar (\$1,000) gift cards went to two Merrimack employees for their participation in the Slice of
562 Life program. As of April 14, 2014, the return rate of filling out the Health Assessment is at
563 51.5% with a goal of 70% by the end of 2014.

564

565 Board Member Powell continued, explaining the Compass Smart Shopper Pilot program. If an
566 individual has an upcoming procedure, this is a collaboration with Anthem and Compass for the
567 district employee to go on the web and “price shop” for the procedure. To date, two hundred
568 ninety-eight claims have been filed, twenty-five of those went on line to “shop”. Of those
569 twenty-five, there were twelve hits that were cost effective, saving the district fourteen thousand
570 two hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$14,228.00). This is a tool that is out there and he hopes the
571 district employees will use it.

572

573 Vice Chair Barnes was confirmed this week to the New Hampshire School Boards Association
574 Board of Directors and she will be serving the south central region of the state. This will enable
575 her to bring more information to the district as well as bringing the district’s concerns to the
576 association. She attended the seminar for new chairs and there was talk about districts having
577 Policy Review Committees.

578

579 Vice Chair Barnes reported on the Grater Woods subcommittee. They went over proper signing
580 at kiosks and trails. She reported to the committee that Merrimack would no longer be doing
581 Camp MiTeNa and that the district was looking at the Grater Woods parcel as a good resource
582 for curriculum fulfillment. The trail work is continuing through the summer.

583

584 Board Member Schneider attended the Planning and Building Committee organizational meeting
585 chaired by Rich Hendricks. They talked about the actions for the coming year. They discussed
586 the SAU/SPED building. He added that he feels that there is an opportunity to improve the
587 communication between the board and the committee.

588

589 Chairman Ortega reported on the Town Center Committee meeting on April 25, 2014. Highlights
590 included:

- 591 • The member at large position was filled by Carl Sauderberg, from the Able Ebenezer
592 Brewing Company.

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- He gave a report on the Safe Routes to School subcommittee. Matt Waikins of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) reported to him that the funds for the Safe Routes to School projects were not available at this time. The Department of Transportation has reorganized around how they are managing those funds. The Safe Routes to School study and proposal will be very pertinent in terms of completing an application for those funds.
- At the next meeting the committee will discuss a change in the Safe Routes to School subcommittee. Currently it operates as a subcommittee of the Town Center Committee. One of recommendations was to make that subcommittee a working committee of the school district.
- There was update on the Souhegan River Walk. There were discussions about the Bog Bridge and the path under Chamberlain Bridge
- There was an update on the Church Street closing. There was a proposal to purchase the Pizza Man building, but the committee was not interested in pursuing this.
- There are plans to put a sign on the Merrill’s Marauders Bridge.
- There were additional discussions on sidewalks.
- The next meeting is May 30, 2014.

13. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

14. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 9:45 p.m., Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.